



PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER FT. HUACHUCA SOLDIER STRIPPED OF CITIZENSHIP AND SENTENCED TO PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on September 23, 2004 Osama Musa Alferahin, DOB 2/19/71, a naturalized citizen of the United States, was sentenced to 12 months in prison after being convicted by a jury of Knowingly Procuring or Attempting to Procure Naturalization Contrary to Law, in violation of 18 U.S. Code §1425(a) by the Honorable Judge John M. Roll in federal court in Tucson, Ariz.

Based on the information presented at trial, Alferahin was previously a citizen of Jordan. He had been married to a Spanish citizen and divorced in September 1997. On December 31, 1997, he married Reem Yessar Arafat, a naturalized U.S. citizen, in Amman, Jordan. Based on his marriage to Arafat, he filled out a Petition for Alien Relative, INS form I-130. That form requires information regarding any previous marriages; on that form the defendant wrote "N/A", indicating that the question did not apply to him. When questioned later, Alferahin stated he willfully did not answer the question truthfully because he did not want to "complicate the process" of obtaining permission to become a Lawful Permanent Resident. At the time of his arrest,

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Alferahin was stationed at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., where he was being trained in a Military Intelligence Unit as an interrogator.

On October 15, 2003, a one-count indictment was filed against Alferahin in U.S. District Court in Tucson, Ariz., charging Knowingly Procuring or Attempting to Procure Naturalization Contrary to Law, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §1425(a). On June 16, 2004, a jury trial returned a guilty verdict against Alferahin.

Pursuant to Title 8, U.S. Code Section 1451(e), Alferahin was stripped of his certificate of naturalization and turned over to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton stated that "the U.S. Attorney's office will aggressively prosecute cases involving the use of fraudulent identification or involving false statements related to obtaining naturalization or otherwise attempting to enter or remain in the United States unlawfully."

The case was handled by Julia A. Maldonado Soto, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-2051-TUC-JMR
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